

1 C. YONG JEONG, ESQ. (SBN 255244)

2 jeong@jeonglikens.com

3 AMY CHOE, ESQ. (SBN 299870)

4 amy.choe@jeonglikens.com

5 JEONG & LIKENS, L.C.

6 1055 W. 7TH Street, Suite 2280

7 Los Angeles, California 90017

8 Tel. 213-688-2001

9 Fax. 213-688-2002

10 Attorneys for Plaintiff, MINX INTERNATIONAL, INC. d/b/a DAMASK FABRICS

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 MINX INTERNATIONAL, INC. d/b/a
14 DAMASK FABRICS, a California
15 Corporation;

16 Plaintiff,

17 vs.

18 AROUND THE WORLD APPAREL, INC.
19 d/b/a MISS CHIEVOUS, a California
20 Corporation; DRY GOODS, LLC, an Iowa
21 Corporation; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

22 Defendants.

Case Number: 2:15-cv-08636

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR:
1. COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT
AND/OR
2. VICARIOUS AND/OR CONTRIBUTORY
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

Jury Trial Demanded

23 Plaintiff MINX INTERNATIONAL, INC. d/b/a DAMASK FABRICS ("Plaintiff" or "MINX")
24 by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby prays to this honorable Court for relief and
25 remedy based on the following:

INTRODUCTION

26 Plaintiff is a California-based company engaged in the apparel industry as a textile converter of
27 imported and domestic fabrications. Plaintiff creates, or purchases and obtains, exclusive rights
28 to unique two-dimensional graphic artworks for use on textiles and garments, and those textiles

1 and garments are transacted primarily in the fashion industry. Plaintiff owns these designs in
 2 exclusivity and makes sales of products bearing these designs for profit. Plaintiff's business is
 3 predicated on its ownership of these designs and it spends a considerable amount of time and
 4 resources creating and obtaining top-quality, marketable and aesthetically-appealing designs.
 5 Customers of Plaintiff, including possibly DOE defendants named herein, take design samples
 6 with the understanding and agreement that they will only utilize Plaintiff to reproduce said
 7 designs should they wish to do so, and will not seek to make minor changes to Plaintiff's
 8 proprietary work to reproduce the same elsewhere, yet use those designs in furtherance of their
 9 business in violation of both their contractual agreement with Plaintiff and Plaintiff's copyrights.
 10 No other party is authorized to make sales of product bearing Plaintiff's proprietary designs
 11 without express permission from Plaintiff. This action is brought to recover damages for direct,
 12 vicarious and contributory copyright infringement arising out of the misappropriation of
 13 Plaintiff's exclusive designs by the Defendants, and each of them.

14 15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 16 1. This action arises under the Copyright Act of 1976, Title 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*
- 17 2. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a) and (b).
- 18 3. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(a) in that this is
 19 the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the
 20 claims occurred.

21 22 **PARTIES**

- 23 4. MINX INTERNATIONAL, INC. d/b/a DAMASK FABRICS ("Plaintiff") is a corporation
 24 organized and existing under the laws of the State of California with its principal place of
 25 business in the County of Los Angeles, at 752 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90014.
- 26 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant AROUND THE
 27 WORLD APPAREL, INC d/b/a MISS CHIEVOUS is, and at all times herein mentioned was,
 28 a corporation organized and existing under the laws of California and doing business in

1 California, with its principal place of business at 1333 Wilson Street, Los Angeles, CA
2 90021.

- 3 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant DRY GOODS, LLC, is,
4 and at all times herein mentioned was, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of
5 Iowa and doing business in California, with its principal place of business at 6565 Brady St.,
6 Davenport, Iowa 52806.
- 7 7. Named Defendants, and Does 1-10, may be collectively referred to as "Defendants."
- 8 8. Defendants DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are other parties not yet identified who have
9 infringed Plaintiff's copyrights, have contributed to the infringement of Plaintiff's
10 copyrights, or have engaged in one or more of the wrongful practices alleged herein. The true
11 names, whether corporate, individual or otherwise, and capacities of defendants sued herein
12 as Does 1 through 10 are presently unknown to Plaintiff at this time, and therefore, Plaintiff
13 sues said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this
14 complaint to allege their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.
- 15 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that at all times relevant hereto each
16 of Defendants acted in concert with each other, was the agent, affiliate, officer, director,
17 manager, principal, alter-ego, and/or employee of the remaining defendants and was at all
18 times acting within the scope of such agency, affiliation, alter-ego relationship and/or
19 employment; and actively participated in or subsequently ratified and adopted, or both, each
20 and all of the acts or conducts alleged, with full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances,
21 including without limitation to full knowledge of each and every wrongful conducts and
22 Plaintiff's damages caused therefrom.

23
24 **CLAIMS RELATED TO DESIGN**

- 25 10. Plaintiff is the owner and author of a two-dimensional artwork called 110308(80225),
26 ("Subject Design"). (Exhibit A).
- 27
28

1 11. Plaintiff applied for a copyright from the United States Copyright Office for the Subject
2 Design and was granted Registration No. VA 1-773-401 effective on May 17, 2011 (Exhibit
3 B).

4 12. Plaintiff formatted the Subject Design for use on textiles, sampled the Subject Design, and
5 negotiated sales of fabric bearing the Subject Design.

6 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, without Plaintiff's authorization,
7 Defendant AROUND THE WORLD APPAREL, INC. d/b/a MISS CHIEVOUS purchased,
8 sold, manufactured, caused to be manufactured, imported and/or distributed fabric and/or
9 garments comprised of fabric featuring a design which is identical, or substantially similar to,
10 the Subject Design. A true and correct copy of such a garment is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
11 Said garments include but are not limited to garments sold by DRY GOODS LLC bearing
12 the label "Chance or Fate" under RN 114873.

13 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, without Plaintiff's authorization,
14 Defendant DRY GOODS LLC purchased, sold, manufactured, caused to be manufactured,
15 imported and/or distributed fabric and/or garments comprised of fabric featuring a design
16 which is identical, or substantially similar to, the Subject Design. A true and correct copy of
17 such a garment is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Said garments include but are not limited to
18 garments sold by DRY GOODS LLC bearing the label "Chance or Fate" under RN 114873.

19 15. None of the aforementioned transactions were authorized by Plaintiff, and all were in
20 violation of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights.

21
22 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

23 (For Copyright Infringement – Against all Defendants, and Each)

24 16. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference as though fully set forth the
25 allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 16, inclusive, of this Complaint.

26 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
27 accessed the Subject Design through, without limitation, the following: (a) access to
28 Plaintiff's design library; (b) access to authorized or unauthorized reproductions in the

possession of other vendors and/or DOE Defendants; and (c) access to Plaintiff's strike-offs, swatches, paper CADs and samples.

18. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, infringed Plaintiff's copyright by importing, creating, making and/or developing directly infringing and/or derivative works from the Subject Design and by importing, producing, distributing and/or selling infringing garments through a nationwide network of retail stores, catalogues, and online websites.

19. Due to Defendants' acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered substantial damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial.

20. Due to Defendants' acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered general and special damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial.

21. Due to Defendants' acts of copyright infringement as alleged herein, Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would not otherwise have realized but for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable to Defendants' infringement of the Subject Design in an amount to be established at trial.

22. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, have committed acts of infringement alleged herein with actual or constructive knowledge of Plaintiff's rights such that Plaintiff is entitled to a finding of willful infringement.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(For Vicarious and/or Contributory Copyright Infringement – Against All Defendants)

23. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference as though fully set forth the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 23, inclusive, of this Complaint.

24. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, knowingly induced, participated in, aided and abetted in and resultantly profited from the

1 illegal reproduction, importation, purchase, distribution and/or sales of product featuring the
2 Subject Design as alleged herein above.

3 25. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, are
4 vicariously liable for the infringement alleged herein because they had the right and ability to
5 supervise the infringing conduct and because they had a direct financial interest in the
6 infringing product.

7 26. By reason of the Defendants', and each of their, acts of contributory and/or vicarious
8 infringement as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial
9 damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial, as well as additional general
10 and special damages in an amount to be established at trial.

11 27. Due to Defendants' acts of contributory and/or vicarious copyright infringement as alleged
12 herein, Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would
13 have not otherwise realized but for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such,
14 Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable
15 to Defendants' infringement of the Subject Design, an amount to be established at trial.

16 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
17 have committed acts of infringement alleged herein with actual or constructive knowledge of
18 Plaintiff's rights such that Plaintiff is entitled to a finding of willful infringement.

19
20 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

21 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against all Defendants as follows:

22
23 **Against All Defendants**

24 With respect to Each Claim for Relief:

- 25 1. That Defendants, their agents and servants be enjoined from infringing Plaintiff's copyrights
26 in any manner;
27 2. That Plaintiff be awarded all profits of Defendants plus all losses of Plaintiff, the exact sum
28 to be proven at time of trial, or, if elected before final judgment, statutory damages as

1 available under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*;

2 3. That Plaintiff be awarded its attorneys' fees as available under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C.
3 § 101 *et seq.*;

4 4. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest as allowed by law;

5 5. That Plaintiff be awarded costs of litigation; and

6 6. That Plaintiff be awarded such further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems proper.

7
8 **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

9 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury in this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
10 38 and the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution.

11 //

12 //

13 //

14 Dated: November 5, 2015

15
16 Respectfully submitted,

17
18 /s/C. Yong Jeong

19 C. Yong Jeong, Esq.

20 Amy Choe, Esq.

21 Attorneys for Plaintiff
22
23
24
25
26
27
28